

INTERNAL TITLE 5				VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT	
Announcement Number:	2003-66	Opening Date:	4-29-03	Closing Date:	5-20-03
Position/Position Number:	SURGICAL TECHNICIAN GS-640-7 #4022A		Organizational Location:	NURSING SERVICE TEMPLE	
Salary Range:	GS-7: \$31,830 - \$41,380 PER ANNUM (INCLUDES 9.62 % LOCALITY COMPARABILITY PAY)		Area of Consideration:	NATIONWIDE	
Duties and Responsibilities:					
<p>HOURS OF DUTY: 8 or 10-hour day shifts, Monday through Friday (with on call). Incumbent provides assistance to the surgeon and other team members in designated areas (OR suite and surgical clinics). Provides patient care that is appropriate to the cognitive, emotional, spiritual, and chronological maturation needs of the adult or geriatric patient. Demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to provide care appropriate to the age of the patients served in his/her assigned service area. Demonstrates knowledge of the changes associated with aging and possesses the ability to provide care based upon age-related factors as specified on the competence assessment checklist. (1) Transports patients pre-operatively and post-operatively and procures needed supplies, drugs, blood, reports, and equipment. (2) Functions as a primary scrub person on all surgical procedures, handling instruments, supplies, and equipment during all surgical procedures such as thoracic, vascular, orthopedic, EENT, etc. from simple to complex cases. Under the supervision of the RN, assists in circulating functions, i.e., performing instrument and sponge counts and accounting for surgical instruments and equipment during surgical procedures. (3) Participates in the perioperative role by evaluating the needs of the surgical patient and assisting in patient positioning and preparation of specialized support equipment necessary for the most complex surgical procedure. (4) Actively participates with the RN in developing a plan to meet the needs and expectations of the various surgical teams. Plans and discusses surgical procedures with the surgical team and ensures all needed supplies and equipment are available. (5) Practices principles of sterile technique, preparing instrumentation independently and without direct supervision, utilizing aseptic technique, maintaining a sterile field intraoperatively. May teach or assist in training aseptic technique to other service techs (radiology). (6) Identifies and/or takes action to correct actual or potential safety hazards concerning infection control, equipment malfunction, etc. Prepares, organizes, and maintains highly complex sterile surgical set-ups. (7) Performs patient care as directed / assigned. (8) Assists the surgeon by performing such procedures as preparing grafts, suctioning, holding retractors, applying skin staples, and cutting sutures. Prepares prostheses and surgical devices during procedures. Handles specimens appropriately. (9) Anticipates, detects, and responds to deviations from normal in the patient which can result in an emergent situation. Observes and responds promptly to each stage of the surgical procedure and anticipates the needs of the surgeon by maintaining a high level of concentration for extended periods of time. (10) Assists in training residents, medical students, nursing students, surgical technology students, and new OR staff in operating equipment, sterile technique, handling instruments, and OR procedures (including the scrub role in surgical procedures.) Provides guidance and support to students and other surgical techniques. (11) Maintains established competencies for area of assignment. Utilizes appropriate assistive devices. Utilizes the computer on a daily basis for various functions. Performs any related patient care duties not specifically described above and other duties as assigned. Physical Demands: Position requires standing for long periods of time, lifting, pushing, walking, bending, stooping, transferring, and transporting patients and heavy packs. Incumbent must be dexterous in passing instruments and must be emotionally stable and able to adjust quickly and well to different types of personalities/behaviors. Must be quick and dependable in taking emergency actions. Work Environment: Duties are performed in the OR, surgical clinics, on any tour of duty, in a hospital environment. Duties will require that incumbent will wear special attire. There is regular and recurring exposure to toxic and noxious gases, exposure to x-rays, pure oxygen, laser beams, and to blood and body fluids. Environment can be very stressful and requires personnel who are emotionally stable. National certification in Surgical Technology preferred.</p>					
Qualification Requirements:					
Qualifications are derived from the Office of Personnel Management Group Coverage Qualification Standard for Technical And Medical Support Positions, available in Human Resources Management Service (HRMS).					
<p>GS-7: Must have (a) at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least GS-6 in federal service. Specialized experience is experience which is directly related to the position to be filled and which has equipped the candidate with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position. OR (b) one full year of graduate education. To be creditable, graduate education must be <u>directly</u> related to the work of the position. If education is to be submitted for experience, transcripts must be on file in Official Personnel Folder (OPF) or submitted with application in order to receive credit.</p> <p>Must have one year at the GS-6 level in order to meet time-in-grade requirements.</p> <p>Selectee may be required to successfully complete a pre-employment physical.</p> <p>Appointees to direct patient-care positions must be proficient in spoken and written English as required by 38 USC 7402(d) and 7407(d).</p> <p>THIS IS A DESIGNATED RANDOM DRUG TESTED POSITION, AND SELECTEE WILL BE SUBJECTED TO RANDOM DRUG TESTS.</p>					
Rating and Ranking:					
Qualified candidates will be rated and ranked on the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:					
<p>a. Knowledge and skill sufficient to scrub for all surgical procedures.</p> <p>b. Knowledge of sterile technique, preparing instrumentation independently, utilizing sterile technique, and maintaining a sterile field intraoperatively.</p> <p>c. Knowledge of and ability to prepare grafts, suction, hold retractors, apply skin staples, cut sutures, and prepare prostheses and surgical devices during procedures.</p> <p>d. Knowledge and skill sufficient to demonstrate expertise in the field of surgical technology.</p>					
How to apply:					
<p>Permanent employees who wish to be considered for this position must obtain necessary forms through the internet address: http://www.texvet.com/HRMS/forms.htm VA Form 5-4078 must be received in HRMS, Temple, by close of business on closing date of announcement. VA Forms 5-4676A and 5-4667B must be received within 7 calendar days after the closing date of this announcement. Please refer all questions to Carol A. Blackwell, Human Resources Specialist, extension 39-5554. It is the responsibility of each employee to assure that his/her Official Personnel File (OPF) is current and shows ALL work experience and credentials prior to the closing date of the announcement.</p>					
THIS IS A BARGAINING UNIT POSITION.					
<p>If patient needs arise, the incumbent of the above position may be reassigned to the Waco Integrated Clinical Facility (ICF) within Central Texas Veterans Health Care System. This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis. Please refer any questions to the specialist listed above. CTVHCS is a smoke-free environment. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Actions to fill this position will not be based on discriminatory factors which are prohibited by law.</p>					

